

## STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON COMMISSIONER

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Horses for Handicapped Returns to the State Fairgrounds April 15-18

**JACKSON, Miss.** – Horses for Handicapped returns to the Mississippi State Fairgrounds April 15-18 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Established in 1981, this annual event takes place every April at the same location. With its primary purpose being to provide an opportunity for children and adults with disabilities to congregate and enjoy a recreational aspect of agriculture that is both fun and entertaining, Horses for Handicapped is supported by many volunteers who come out every year to support the event.

"I was introduced to this wonderful event last year, and I quickly saw what a special outreach this is for children and adults with disabilities. I want to invite the public to come out and support Horses for Handicapped on your Mississippi State Fairgrounds," stated Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson.

More than 1,900 children and adults with mental and physical disabilities will come to the fairgrounds over four days to enjoy horseback riding, wagon rides, a petting zoo and games.

"It's such an honor to be able to offer the use of our facilities for an event such as this. Our entire team looks forward to helping in any way possible," said Steve Hutton, Executive Director of the Mississippi Fair Commission.

For more information about this event, visit <u>www.horsesforhandicappedms.com</u>. Kim Crotwell can be contacted via phone at 769-610-2406, via email at info@horsesforhandicappedms.com, or via fax at 601-898-8041.

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